

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Reference signal components obtained in an initial state from outputs of photoelectric conversion devices of a line sensor having received reference light produced by a reference light source are stored. The line  
5 sensor is caused to receive the reference light at a stage immediately before image readout is performed. Sensitivity signal components are acquired from the outputs of the photoelectric conversion devices having received  
10 the reference light at the stage immediately before the image readout is performed. The sensitivity signal components and the reference signal components are compared with each other, and sensitivity correction signal components for making a correction for variations in  
15 sensitivity among the photoelectric conversion devices are obtained. A correction of the output signal components, which are acquired from the photoelectric conversion devices during the image readout, is made with the sensitivity correction signal components.